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FROM: AMEMBASSY, HELSINKI

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 27, 1955

REF

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	REC'D	OTHER
	EUR 5	Rm/R-2 041-6
	10/3	CIA-7 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-3 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Social Democratic Minister Voices Misgivings about Moscow Accord

On September 21 Aarne Simonen, Minister of Trade and Industry, gave public expression to the misgivings and criticisms of the Moscow accord reached by President Paasikivi, and particularly of the manner in which the negotiations had been prepared and subsequently exploited, which criticisms had previously been limited to private conversations and editorials in the Social Democratic newspaper SOSIALIDEMOKRAATTI. The Minister did not hesitate to reveal the depth of resentment among Social Democratic leaders about the manner in which the substance of the negotiations had been kept secret from responsible Cabinet members when known in advance by the Prime Minister. He gave a lead in his speech to possible future Social Democratic attacks by implying that the Prime Minister had failed to fulfill his constitutional duty of keeping his colleagues and the Diet's Committee on Foreign Affairs informed of important problems in foreign relations. In fact, he even accused the Prime Minister of making untruthful explanations of the purpose of the mission, no doubt because it had been asserted by Mr. Kekkonen that nothing was known as to the nature of the questions to be discussed at Moscow.

In his speech Mr. Simonen pointedly referred to the imminent retirement of President Paasikivi, thus making plain the Social Democratic Party opposition to any attempts to reelect the ageing president. He emphasized that to the President, and to the President alone, belonged the credit for what had been achieved at Moscow and expressed his party's irritation at Agrarian attempts to give equal credit to their presidential candidate. In conclusion he asserted that if the Agrarians were to claim that Kekkonen deserved the credit for what was obtained at Moscow, he should logically be blamed for what Finland failed to get.

This hard-hitting speech apparently went home, for on the following day the Agrarian Party's organ MAAKANSA leapt to the defense of the Prime Minister by declaring that Mr. Simonen could not reduce the appreciation felt for what the Prime Minister did at Moscow by blaming him for not gaining all that Finland had dared to hope might be achieved. "It is rather surprising that those who have not helped to build our present foreign policy have found it appropriate to

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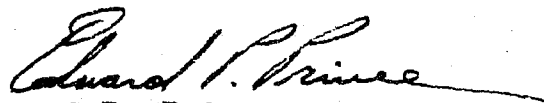
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"express their dissatisfaction and blame the negotiators." Perhaps Mr. Simonen, said this paper, should go to Moscow to show that he is more powerful than the President and Prime Minister together.

The Communist press reacted by declaring that Mr. Simonen had only succeeded in demonstrating the hollowness with which Social Democrats and conservative leaders affirmed their support of the "Paasikivi line". Such circles had now to resort to insolence in order to try to make the Finnish people forget the positive results reached in the Moscow negotiations. The SKDL interest in retaining the President as a dark horse presidential candidate was openly revealed for the first time when the columnist "Suti" in VAPAA SANA, in reaction to Mr. Simonen's speech, quickly asserted that the President might still remain at his post.

For the Charge d'Affaires a.e.:



Edward P. Prince
Second Secretary of Embassy

enc: 

1. Speech of Minister Simonen

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TRANSLATION:

Trade and Industry Minister Aarne Simonen spoke at a Social Democratic autumn festival, arranged in the Workers' Hall in Tampere, on September 21, 1955, about recent events, among other things, the following:

THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS
WILL REMAIN TO THE CREDIT OF THE PRESIDENT

In recent days, there has been general satisfaction in the country owing to the Moscow agreement regarding the return of the Porkkala area. Although it is understood that because of the development that has taken place in military technique in recent years the strategic significance of the naval base in Porkkala has essentially changed, and although it is realized that the Soviet deliberation, which led to the decision to return the area, has been influenced also by interests of world policy, it can nevertheless be really seen that the Soviet Union's attitude towards Finland, as well as its confidence in Finland's attitude towards its great neighbor has reached a stage which makes a solution like this possible.

It is natural that the Social Democrats are especially delighted about this development, for we remember that the Social Democratic Party of this country has for a longer period than any other party demanded that we should establish a matter-of-fact policy based on mutual confidence in the relations between Finland and the Soviet Union.

It would not be truthful if we refused to admit that the discussions in Moscow have left us with a different impression. Whereas the 1948 Friendship and Mutual Assistance Agreement has been approved and generally acknowledged as the correct basis for development of relations between our two countries, we have been of the opinion that the wording of some parts of the agreement and some vagueness in the stipulations have needed some revision. This would have been possible in the present atmosphere of confidence. It is known that great hopes were raised in the hearts of almost a quarter of a million persons who are evacuees. We can well understand the disappointment they feel. Considering economic matters, it was hoped that some defects which caused grave economic difficulties could be adjusted even a little since regional economics had been badly broken up by the border line.

The opinions of the Social Democrats on the above questions were explained to the Finnish leaders of the delegation, before they left for Moscow, in the form in which the Social Democratic Cabinet members and the leaders of the Party had approved them. Without accusing anybody we can only state, that it is not the fault of the Social Democrats that our wishes could not be fulfilled in all parts.

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From Helsinki

Most criticism has been raised by the exceptional way in which the preparations were made for the negotiations, and the way in which these were carried out.

The government of the country as a whole, its Committee of Foreign Affairs, including the unfortunate Foreign Minister, and the Diet's Committee of Foreign Affairs were kept in ignorance of real facts not only by silence but even by untruthful explanations.

The Social Democratic Party at least cannot approve this kind of behavior without expressing a most resolute protest. We have reason to believe that this will not be the only expression of dissatisfaction.

The matter is not improved by explanations that the other party (i.e. the Russians-Translator) had proposed certain wishes that things be kept secret.

In the handling of these matters, it should have been demanded that democratic principles be followed, simply because of the fact that questions of Finnish Foreign Policy were to be discussed.

The favorable results of these negotiations will be a credit to our President. These matters will crown the life work which our esteemed President has performed and which he deserves now that he is soon retiring to enjoy rest in his old age, at the end of his presidential term. He has performed this Moscow journey as he did the many previous ones, which were not made under such favorable auspices, inspired with love for his mother-country and without asking for special honor or thanks.

It would be well if we could say the same of all others who took part in the negotiations. Signs in the last few days seem to show different attitudes on the part of others. The Agrarian circles of our political life have taken up a new line, and they seem to have claimed that the credit of the Moscow journey comes to their own controversial presidential candidate.

There are signs that the same tune will be continued for the rest of the election campaign period. We can only say that if the Agrarians claim that Kekkonen deserves the credit for what we got from Moscow, if we reason logically it was naturally also his fault that we failed to get what we did not get.

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